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INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO EQQO

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AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: MEA ANNUAL SURVEY ON INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY

SUMMARY: THE INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ANNUAL REPORT, RELEASED
HERE APR. 3, FINDS THAT THERE IS NO CONFLICT OF NATIONAL INTERESTS
BETWEEN THE U.S. AND INDIA AND THAT THE LIFTING OF THE ARMS
EMBARGO AND DIEGO GARCIA DO NOT HAVE TO COME IN THE WAY OF
FURTHER NORMALIZING RELATIONS. THE MEA REPORT USES HARSH
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LANGUAGE ON PAKISTAN; INDICATES THERE IS CONTINUING CONCERN

ABOUT BANGLADESH; AND OBSERVES THAT INDO -SOVIET RELATIONS HAVE BEEN FURTHER STRENGTHENED WHILE SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS HAVE REMAINED UNCHANGED. END SUMMARY.

1. THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS 1975-76 ANNUAL REPORT, DISTRIBUTED IN DELHI APR. 3, CASTS A MIDLY POSITIVE LIGHT ON INDO-US RELATIONS OVER THE PAST YEAR AND THE FUTURE PROSPECTS. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THE "DIALOGUE AND EXCHANGES TOWARDS A MATURE AND CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP....CONTINUED" AND "IT WAS GENERALLY FELT THAT, IN SPITE OF THEIR DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES, PRIORITIES AND PROBLEMS, THERE WAS NO CONFLICT OF NATIONAL INTERESTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES..." THE REPORT CITES CHAVAN'S OCTOBER VISIT TO WASHINGTON, HIS MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS, AND THE INDO-US JOINT COMMISSION MEETING AMONG THE YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, THE MEA REPORT POINTS TO THE LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO AND DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION. "IT WAS, HOWEVER, FELT THAT THESE NEED NOT COME IN THE WAY OF NORMALIZATION..." EVEN THOUGH THEY "COULD AFFECT THIS TREND (TOWARDS IMPROVED INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS) IN THE FUTURE." THE REPORT DEALS WITH THE U.S. CRITICISM OF THE EMERGENCY WITH A SINGLE LINE REGRETTING THAT "THERE WAS A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING IN THE UNITED STATES OF THE MEANING AND DIRECTION OF THE DYNAMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA." PRESIDENT FORD'S INTENTION TO PAY A GOODWILL VISIT AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE IS MENTIONED.

2. ACCORDING TO THE ANNUAL REPORT, PROGRESS IN NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN WAS SLOW AND HALTING, ESSENTIALLY BECAUSE THE GOP LAUNCHED FROM MAY 1975 "A CAMPAIGN OF BASELESS PROPAGANDA AND DENIGRATION OF INDIA WHICH VITIATED THE ATMOSPHERE." PAKISTAN'S DECISION TO CONTEST A SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT, THE DISSEMINATION BY ITS OFFICIAL MEDIA OF "FALSE RUMORS THAT INDIA MIGHT RESORT TO A MILITARY ADVENTURE" AND WAS LIKELY TO INTERVENE IN BANGLADESH, AS WELL AS IS OVERALL ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE SIMLA AGREEMENT (E.G., RESTRICTIVE ATTITUDE ON TRAVEL AND TRADE, EFFORTS TO UNILATERALLY ALTER KASHMIR SITUATION, ETC.) HAS RESULTED IN LITTLE BEING ACCOMPLISHED DURING THE PAST YEAR DESPITE INDIA'S "POSITIVE APPROACH."

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3. ON BANGLADESH, THE MEA REPORT NOTES THAT THE SHEIKH'S ASSASSINATION AND THE RESULTING INSTABILITY CAME AS A "GREAT SHOCK AND CAUSED GREAT ANGUISH AND CONCERN." THEN THERE WAS CONCERN ABOUT THE SAFETY OF INDIAN NATIONALS; UNCONTROLLED ANTI-INDIAN PROPAGANDA, SOMETIMES EVEN IN THE OFFICIAL MEDIA; AND THE PLANTING OF A LIVE GRENADE AT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S RESIDENCE AND THE ATTACK ON THE HIGH

COMMISSIONER HIMSELF. THE REPORT GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE "THICK FOG OF DISTRUST, SUSPICION AND HOSTILITY TOWARDS INDIA...LARGELY CREATED BY CERTAIN FORCES WITHIN AND OUTSIDE BANGLADESH" ONLY BEGAN TO CLEAR WITH JUSTICE SATTAR'S VISIT IN EARLY DECEMBER AND THE TALKS OF THE BORDER SECURITY OFFICIALS. BUT PROBLEMS REMAIN. THE INTRODUCTION TO THE MEAN REPORT, PRESUMABLY REFLECTING THE LATEST THINKING BEFORE THE ANNUAL REPORT WENT TO PRESS, ADDS THAT "IT IS A MATTER OF REGRET THAT BASELESS ALLEGATIONS HAVE, OF LATE, BEEN APPEARING IN THE BANGLADESH PRESS ABOUT INDIA'S ALLEGED ATTEMPTS AT INTERFERENCE. IT IS ALL THE MORE REGRETTABLE THAT THESE ITEMS SHOULD APPEAR AFTER THE AGREEMENT REACHED RECENTLY IN DELHI...ON REFRAINING FROM HIGH-LEVEL PROPAGANDA."

4. THE REPORT INDICATES THAT WAS "NO CHANGE" IN RELATIONS WITH CHINA OVER THE PAST YEAR. "CHINA CONTINUED TO MISREPRESENT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN INDIA AND MAKE CRITICAL COMMENTS ON INDIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS." THE PRC STATEMENT ON SIKKIM AND THE OCTOBER 20 BORDER INCIDENT ARE MENTIONED. AS EVIDENCE OF INDIA'S "CONSISTENT POLICY OF SEEKING TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS," THE REPORT CITES THE INDIAN INVITATION TO THE CHINESE TABLE TENNIS TEAM, THE GOI'S APPROVAL OF THE CHINESE EMBASSY'S REQUEST FOR A TELEX LINK AND THE GOI'S SUPPORT OF THE PRC'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.

5. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WERE FURTHER STRENGTHENED. PRONOUNCEMENTS BY SOVIET LEADERS "REAFFIRMED THE SIGNIFICANT ROLE OF INDIA IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT..." AS WELL AS THE MOVEMENT'S IMPORTANCE TO WORLD PEACE. THE USSR'S AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT REPAYMENT IN COM-

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MODITIES FOR ITS 1973 WHEAT LOAN, ITS LAUNCHING OF INDIA'S FIRST SATELLITE ARYABHATA, AND ITS "VERY VALUABLE AND PROMPT HELP" IN THE CHASNALA COAL MINE DISASTER ARE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY AS AMONG THE YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS. THE ONLY LANGUAGE IN THE REPORT WHICH COULD DISPLEASE THE SOVIETS IS CONTAINED IN A PARAGRAPH ON DETENTE. DETENTE, READS THE REPORT, HAS NOT INDUCED THE U.S. AND THE USSR TO QUOTE ABANDON THEIR RIVALRY AND EFFORTS TO EXTEND THEIR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD. THEIR INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL AND ANGOLA DEMONSTRATED THAT, DESPITE THEIR ADHERENCE TO THE SPIRIT OF DETENTE, THEY WOULD STRIVE TO EXTEND THEIR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE IN AREAS WHERE THERE WAS INSTABILITY. THIS WAS FURTHER DEMONSTRATED BY THE CONTINUING SUPER-POWER RIVALRY IN SENSITIVE AREAS LIKE THE INDIAN OCEAN.....UNQUOTE. GENERALLY THE

SOVIETS DO NOT LIKE TO BE CAST HERE AS A SUPER-POWER INTENT
UPON EXTENDING THEIR INFLUENCE IN RIVALRY WITH THE U.S.
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